

09/884,183

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**In the Claims:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

5. (currently amended) A method of breeding an animal line for experimental use, comprising:

preselecting a first population of one or more conspecific ~~animal(s)~~ animals comprising cells comprising chromosomes with telomeres of determinable lengths;

determining a statistical distribution of telomere lengths among cells of the animals of said first population; and

following the determining step, permitting ~~animal(s)~~ animals with a desired distribution of telomere lengths to produce offspring.

6. (original) The method of Claim 5, further comprising selecting the offspring to produce a second population, such that the statistical distribution of telomere lengths among the animals of said second population is modified compared to the distribution among the animals of said first population, wherein said second population is intended for experimental use.

7. (canceled)